

SSgt. Christine Mora

PATRIOT

WESTOVER ARB
AUGUST 1998

OVER THE TOP — Members of the 42nd APS scramble over the obstacle course during Airlift Rodeo '98. From left are: TSGt. Donald Witt, SrA Carrey-Ann Patterson, SSgt. Dave Steiner and TSgt. Michael Edwards.

Wing ropes high honors at Airlift Rodeo



SSgt. Christine Mora

WINNING EFFORT — Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, 439th AW commander, poses with the entire West-

over Airlift Rodeo '98 team and their first-place trophies. ARTICLE/PHOTOS ON PAGES 6 AND 7.

Russell is 439th AW inspector general

by SSgt. Anne Kymalainen

"I have a confession to make," said the Inspector General to Westover newcomers during their initial briefing. "I have only been an IG for three days."

July marked the first month in which Col. Diane Russell took over as IG for the 439 Airlift Wing.

Russell describes the position as a "referral agency," rather than a complaint booth. "If a member has a complaint, and goes through the proper channels, and still isn't happy with the result, or feels as though it wasn't handled correctly, that's where I come in," she said. "General Bankers goal is to have me do nothing. Nothing," she laughs. "If the IG is not busy, it means the rest of the base is doing their job."

She hopes to curtail the stereotypical image members may have when thinking of the Inspector General. "I want to make this a more accessible position by being visible and addressing issues."

Russell joined the 439th in 1981, as captain in the Field Maintenance Squadron, where she stayed until Desert Storm, when she was detailed to Job Control. In 1994, she



Col. Diane Russell

assumed command of the Component Repair Squadron. When the CRS merged with the maintenance squadron, she was commander of the largest maintenance squadron in the Air Force Reserve, overseeing more than 300 members.

As a civilian, Russell is a program manager at Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford, Conn. in charge of three programs: safety for heavy lift helicopters; and overseeing both the United States Air Force MH-53J helicopter and Israeli Air Force H-53 helicopter fleets. Russell feels her civilian job experience, as well as her previous encounters as a squadron commander, will benefit her in her duties as IG.

Russell, who graduated from Officer Training School in November of 1971, holds her bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the Aero Space Institute, and her MBA from the University of New Haven. She is currently working on another master's degree in education. "I want to make a difference by making an impression in children's lives," said Russell, of her future career change.

Russell lives in Southbury, Conn., with her husband John.



2nd Lt. Elaine Bernash

Bernash serves wing as executive officer

by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

Second lieutenant Elaine M. Bernash was recently appointed wing executive officer, replacing Maj. Max Mendoza, who went to a new position at Homestead AFB, Fla.

As the executive officer, the 20-year veteran will work closely with General Bankers, assisting him in all areas of wing leadership.

Bernash, who was commissioned two years ago after reaching the rank of senior master sergeant, previously worked as the plans program officer and applied for the executive officer position because she was attracted to the challenges the position offers her.

"The biggest challenge will be to make a difference," she says, sitting amid unpacked boxes in her new office. "I want everybody at Westover to have a positive attitude when they come here and I hope that if I'm positive it will be contagious. I want to be an example."

Bernash, who holds a business management degree from Elms College, believes that if all reservists strive for self improvement, the wing will ultimately benefit.

"I didn't go to college to enhance my career, I went to better myself. Career progression just came along with it," she says.

PATRIOT

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Westover C-5 helps celebrate Boston's Fourth

by MSgt. Gordon A. Newell

For 11 members of the 439th Airlift Wing, July 4, 1998 will be a date they will remember for a long time.

It was the day they performed a C-5 flyby over the famed Hatch Memorial Shell on the Esplanade of the Charles River, kicking off Boston's "Pops Goes the Fourth" celebration.

For the past 25 years, a concert by the Boston Pops Orchestra has become the mainstay of Boston's July 4th bash. This year's crowd—estimated at over 500,000—was the largest ever, according to State Police officials.

Hundreds of news media representatives covered the concert, which was also carried live over the Arts and Entertainment (A&E) Network.

"It was a real thrill for me to look out the cockpit window and see those hundreds of thousands of people," said Lt. Col. Jim Hosey who co-piloted the flight. "As soon as we came into view, we could hear the crowd (estimated at 500,000) cheering through our headsets."

Lt. Col. Tom Mauzaka, commander of

the 439th Airlift Control Flight was on the ground at the Hatch Shell, equipped with radios in contact with the C-5, and also hooked up to more than 30 speakers around the Esplanade.

Lt. Col. Sandy Whittier, C-5 aircraft

Fourth of July Flyby crew

Pilots

Lt. Col. Sandy Whittier
Lt. Col. Jim Hosey
Major Bill Spence

Flight engineers

MSgt. Nelson Serrao
MSgt. Robert Stawasz
MSgt. Jean Beadle

Loadmasters

MSgt. Rob Karrisch
TSgt. Donald DeVincenzo

Maintenance crew

SMSgt. Joseph Strouse
TSgt. Irving Little
SSgt. Stephen Butler

commander, radioed Westover's greetings to the record crowd of revelers below.

"On behalf of my crew, our maintenance team and the rest of the men and women of the 439th Airlift Wing from Westover ARB, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Fourth of July. We appreciate the opportunity to take part in this great celebration."

Whittier, who grew up in the Boston suburb of Melrose, and graduated from Boston University, was more than willing to give up his holiday to fly the mission.

"This was a great opportunity for us to show what the Air Force Reserve is capable of," he said. "The C-5 is not a one-man airplane. I want to thank all the crew members who volunteered to make the flyby possible."

Though not members of the flight crew, three maintenance workers—SMSgt. Joe Strouse, TSgt. Irving Little and SSgt. Stephen Butler—were also aboard the Galaxy at the invitation of Whittier.

"We couldn't have done it without them," Whittier said. In addition, MSgt. Jean Beadle, a flight engineer, stayed at Westover to ready a second aircraft if it was needed.



1948-1998

Out of the Blue

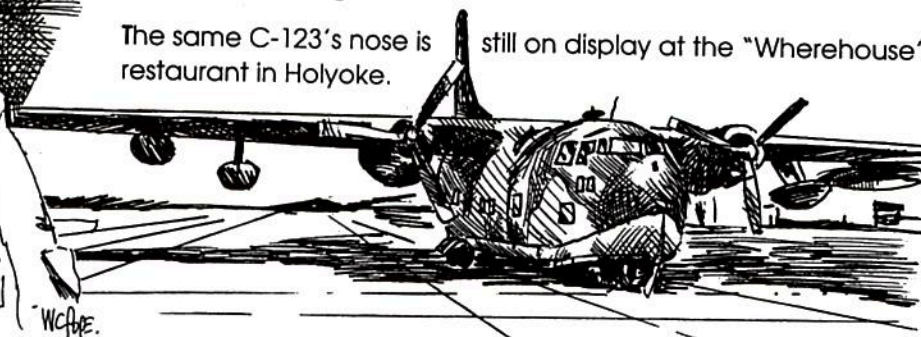


TSgt. W.C. Pope

On October 11, 1977, Westover's Col. Gale French safely landed his blazing C-123. He was on a routine training mission when the left engine caught fire sending one-hundred-foot flames that engulfed the left wing and tail. As the cabin filled with smoke, French opened the side flightdeck window and stuck his head out to see where he was going.

Of the three crew members, only the crew chief was injured when he parachuted from the burning aircraft and was bitten by a farmer's dog.

The same C-123's nose is still on display at the "Wherehouse" restaurant in Holyoke.



Source: "Westover: Man, Base and Mission" by Dr. Frank Faulkner

Air Force draws up body art rules

WASHINGTON — While not banning its people from wearing body art, the Air Force is setting forth guidelines on tattoos, branding and body piercing in an interim change to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

In essence, tattoos or brands should not be excessive, and those that contain inflammatory, obscene, racist, sexist or similar content are strictly prohibited. Examples of those that could be considered excessive would include images or brands that cover more than one-fourth of an exposed body limb or are visible above the collarbone in an open-collar uniform.

The piercing guidelines simply state that males:

- On base, in or out of uniform, on or off duty, cannot wear earrings or any other visible body piercings.

Likewise, the piercing guidelines simply state that females:

- On duty, on base, in uniform may wear a single, small, spherical, matching earring in each earlobe;

- On duty, in civilian clothes may wear a single, small, spherical, matching earring in each earlobe. No other body piercings should be visible;

- Off duty, on base, in civilian clothes earrings should be conservative and kept within sensible limits. No other body piercings should be visible.

"Basically, we've recognized the increasing popularity of body art and have adjusted personal appearance policy to set appropriate guidelines for such practices," said Lt. Col. Whit Taylor, chief of the Air Force Quality of Life Office, which is responsible for uniforms and personal appearance policy.

"The Air Force has long had dress and personal appearance standards, and they are not stagnant," he said. "They are evolutionary and will continue to serve as minimum standards, leaving much discretionary judgment to commanders to determine appropriate appearance and safety requirements for their mission profiles."

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Eric W. Benken said the Air Force has a long-standing policy prohibiting people with excessive or offensive tattoos from joining the Air Force, but has not had a policy restricting the display of tattoos, brands and body piercing on active duty. As with other

issues, he explained, presenting a proper military image at all times is paramount, piercing and body art are not exceptions.

"We've tried to provide commanders, first sergeants and supervisors clear guidance on what is acceptable," Benken said. "They have the latitude to look at the size and extent of the tattoo and determine what is acceptable ... I think the guidance is fair, reasonable and necessary."

Benken said most people now wearing tattoos are within the boundaries of the new policy.

Benken said that because of the Air Force's global mission, airmen should be cautious about personal hygiene and other health-related issues that arise from wearing items on the body.

Air Force doctors back up the chief's position. Their medical opinion is that, in terms of tattooing, piercing and scarification (cutting into the skin with a sharp instrument), the most serious potential medical complications include blood-borne infections such as HIV, hepatitis B and C and syphilis, as well as staph and strep infections. Secondary infections might also occur during healing.

Benken added that the Air Force is also concerned about body art on people serving overseas where there are host na-



tion sensitivities. In all these instances, he said, people must take care to present a proper military image as well as look out for their own safety.

Air Force officials sum up the new policy in simple terms: Airmen should refrain from obtaining tattoos and brands or from piercing their bodies because of health risks and the faddish image they present. Air Force members must be accountable and portray the highest standards of appearance.

Reserve regulations in line with active duty

As the active duty Air Force begins to conform with the updated policy on tattoos, branding and body piercing, the Reserve side of the house is also expected to maintain the same standards for dress and personal appearance.

"Being in the Air Force Reserve we have certain standards we have to meet. The Reserve may be part-time, but our attitude shouldn't be," said MSgt. Anna Bradshaw, 439th Military Personnel Flight customer service chief.

The primary reason for these new guidelines is to help the Air Force stay in touch with the rising popularity of body art. From the earliest days of basic military training to professional military education, proper wear of the Air Force uniform has been a constant instruction.

According to Air Force officials, commanders and first sergeants will have

the responsibility of determining whether or not an individual's tattoos or body piercings are in violation of Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

Under this new guidance, wing commanders can also set more restrictive standards for their people on/off duty while on a military installation.

Although the majority of Air Force or Reserve members with body art won't be affected by these new guidelines, those individuals whose commanders have determined their body art to be extreme could possibly be reprimanded under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. This action could result in possible expulsion from the Air Force Reserve.

For more information or guidance on body art, contact the military personnel flight at ext. 3430.

Security Forces home after four months in desert

by SSgt. Nancy Robbins

Volunteering to spend four months of duty under the searing desert sun in Kuwait, may not top everyone's list of neat things to do, but that's what 45 reservists assigned to Westover did recently.

The group left Westover in February to provide security at an air base in Kuwait and in June, the desert-weary security forces arrived back home aboard a 439th Airlift Wing C-5.

Capt. Mary Ann Lutz, Operations Officer for the 439th Security Forces Squadron, explained that the unit was composed of reserve security force members from bases across the country. While on their 120-day tour, they all were assigned to the 820th Security Forces Group, whose mission is to mobilize on short notice and to deploy wherever needed in the world.

The reservists worked side-by-side with their active-duty counterparts, establishing security for the air base, protecting the aircraft, aircrews, and off-duty personnel.

"We started working on getting volunteers for this deployment in October, recruiting for a 120-day tour in what would be obviously adverse conditions," said TSgt. James Benvenuto, a 820th SF member who is serving 15-month active duty tour to coordinate the recruitment effort.

Benvenuto spent 50 days in the tent city, and says he'll go back again if he has the chance.

"I think about half the people from Westover's group would serve another 120 days in the desert, the other half most likely would have some sort of conflict with either their family or employer," Benvenuto said.

Benvenuto added, "If you didn't mind the bugs, scorpions, snakes and extreme heat, it really wasn't too bad in the tent city. Authorities did their best to provide televisions, and other activities to keep us busy during off-duty hours, but it still was a challenge to keep up your morale."

SSgt. Gerald Sutherland, also an active duty member with the 820th, said the reservists who deployed didn't have it easy.

"Many times the security personnel were the only ones restricted to the base during times of heightened security. It was tough seeing others in the tent city getting to do some traveling on their days off, when you and your team were required to stay. But that's what we're trained for, and everyone was safe because of that training," Sutherland said.

Since last fall, Westover has served as a central point for recruiting reserve Security Forces to join the 820th for long tours of duty all over the world, but the entire operation will be moving to Texas in the coming months.

Sutherland said there are also upcoming changes for the scheduling of long tours, and would involve giving reservists advanced notice of deployments.

"Advanced notice for 60, 90, or 120-day deployments makes all the difference in the world in regards to training - it's tough to prepare traditional reservists both physically and mentally for the task of providing security under constant real-world threats, especially when you've only got a day before they ship out," Sutherland said.



SSgt. Andrew Reitano

"PRESS"ING MATTERS — MSgt. John Givner, 439 SFS security craftsman, and his family, are interviewed by Channel 22 News upon their arrival back to Westover after four months duty in Kuwait.



MSgt. Sandi Michon

ON THE GREEN/FOR THE GREEN — The Pioneer Valley Chapter Air Force Association sponsored 35 four-person teams in late spring for a golf tournament to raise money for scholarships. From left, Sue Alexander (event coordinator), Linda Allard, Ruth Krynicki and Debbie Wells observe a putt at the East Mountain Country Club in Westfield, Mass.



BY THE BOOK
— Following all the rules was a big part of Airlift Rodeo '98 competition. TSgt. Jim Nichols, left, a 337th AS loadmaster, gets help tying down a vehicle in the C-5 from SSgt. Dave Steiner or the 439th SPS.

Westover corrals Airlift Rodeo '98 awards

Article and photos
by SSgt. Christine Mora

The 439th Airlift Wing earned international bragging rights in June when they captured top honors as the Best Airlift Wing in the world during Airlift Rodeo '98 at McChord AFB, Wash.

The win is a comprehensive victory that honors the best non-airdrop wing in the global airlift arena. The six-day "rodeo" featured aircrew, aerial port, aeromedical, maintenance and security force competition.

"This really is a wing award and a good illustration of all the teamwork it takes to make the operation a success," said Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, 439th AW commander. "The honor is also a reflection of all the components at Westover that keep things running. We're all cogs in the machine, and the machine can't run without each and every cog."

On an individual team level, Westover's aerial porters and maintenance team won top honors as C-5 Engine Running Offload Team and C-5 Postflight Team.

"What made the difference was our determination," said SrA. Carrey-Ann Patterson, an air cargo journeyman from the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron. "We wanted this and we trained hard for it."

The aerial port team competed in five events including intransit visibility, joint inspection, material handling, combat endurance and engine running offload.

Westover's maintenance teams wowed the judges who deemed their 30-year-old

aircraft indistinguishable from a newer model. They drilled in aircraft pre-flight, post flight inspection, aircraft fuel service operation and daily observations.

"We took our prime aircraft to the rodeo," said MSgt. Rosemarie Matteson, an aerospace propulsion craftsman from the 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron. "We prepped this aircraft and wanted to take it because we really believe in the maintenance that we do."

"We were determined to win," she said. "At the last rodeo we didn't do too well. We didn't want people to equate that image with Westover. We wanted our respect back. We wanted our peers to believe what we already knew—that Westover is the best."

"Now they know."

Security police forces from the 439th Security Police Squadron drilled in combat tactics, combat endurance, combat rifle and combat handgun competition.

"The training was some of the most realistic we've seen," said SrA. Joseph Losano, 439th security forces journeyman. As an example, Losano described the Combat Handgun Course, an exercise modeled after those at the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other federal agencies.

"Rather than shoot at paper targets, we encountered immediate response when we hit the targets," he said. "It built confidence along the way as I hit the bad guys. When I hit a hostage by mistake, the rush of feeling surprised me. You don't get that immediacy from a paper target."

The 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron's medics tested in combat configuration and loading, medical emergency scenarios, and medical equipment pre-flight and operation.

As the rodeo team wrapped up their win, many remarked on the camaraderie and mutual support of the group.

"When the aerial porters did their ERO, the maintenance team was there doing the ten-person wave," said Maj. Michael Vinskey, rodeo team chief. "When the security police did their combat endurance course, members of the aerial port and aeromedical team were running alongside them cheering them on. There was an overwhelming team spirit."

"We need to carry on the spirit of cooperation that we experienced at the rodeo to our fellow units as proof of what teamwork can do," Vinskey added.





TEST TIME — Rodeo evaluators score members of the 439th AES on patient evacuation procedures. From front to back are: 1st Lt. Brenda Jaeger, Capt. Marie Dufault (kneeling), TSgt. Nancy Clegg and TSgt. James Helems. Bending in the background is SSgt. Denise Claffey.



PREPARE FOR TAKE-OFF — MSgt. Nelson Serrao (at left), 337th AS flight engineer, communicates with fellow aircrew members during a C-5 systems check. In photo above, TSgt. Scott Griffin of the 439th AGS removes the ties on the Rodeo C-5 prior to an evaluation flight.

Reservist helps deliver his own grandson

by SSgt. Anne Kymalainen

Is there a doctor in the house?

How about an Air Transportation Specialist on the front porch?

On June 10, Katherine Dutting would have preferred the first, but gladly settled on the latter when she gave birth to a six-pound baby daughter on the front porch of her home. Baby Stephanie was delivered by grandfather SSgt. Bob Fredette, a reservist at the 58th Aerial Port Squadron.

Dutting had spent her day as usual, at Harrington Hospital, where she works, appropriately enough, in the birth certificates and records department, but left early as she was not feeling well. Realizing she was in labor, she tried to call her mother, who teaches medical terminology at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester. While preparing for her class that night, she turned the phone ringer off so she wouldn't be disturbed.

Unable to reach her mother, Dutting paged her father at ATC Mechanical Co. Fredette stopped at home, threw on clean clothes before rushing over to his daughter and son-in-law's home in Southbridge.

When Fredette arrived at the apartment, his daughter's contractions were two minutes apart. He tried to walk her down to his truck, but she collapsed on the front porch.

"She wasn't going anywhere," he said, "I said, 'Katherine, get into that truck, or get back upstairs.'" But Dutting wasn't moving, and Fredette realized his grandchild was going to be born on the front porch, with no doctor present. "When the baby's head first came out, her eyes popped open and I said 'Stephanie!'. I didn't mean to name the baby," he said. Fredette was caught up adoring the baby but realized I still had work to do. After Stephanie was born, he ran upstairs and called 911.

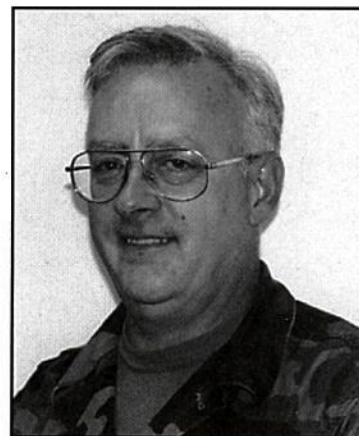
"They said the ambulance would be there in three minutes, so I counted on them to tie off the umbilical cord. I figured they would have sterile clamps with them, which would be better than using my shoelaces," said Fredette.

"I'm just glad everything worked out," he said. Although it was a very special event, Fredette realizes the tragic potential had anything seriously gone wrong during the delivery.

Fredette credits his experience as a Red

"I was just saying the other day — I've done just about everything on the ambulance — except assisting with a birth."

SSgt. Bob Fredette



Cross volunteer and his Air Force training in helping him handle the situation. "Through the Air Force, I have learned how to deal with stress situations. Obviously, it's a little bit different, but you learn how to control your emotions when you are under pressure, and that really helped," he said.

As a Red Cross instructor 26 years ago, Fredette taught child labor and delivery as part of a 17-week advanced first aid class, but "had never delivered a baby. I was just saying the other day - I've done just about everything on the ambulance, except assist with a birth."

Robert Dutting, Stephanie's dad, is a

member of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, and was in North Carolina for annual training when the couple's third child was born.

Fredette has been hearing a few jokes since assisting with his granddaughter's birth. Fredette's wife teased him saying "you'll do anything for attention, won't you?" Dutting's obstetrician has jokingly offered Fredette part time work assisting with births at Harrington Hospital.

His co-workers at ATC are considering changing the on-hold message to include "emergency births" as an addition to the heating and air conditioning services offered, as a tribute to Fredette.

DOD opts for NationsBank VISA

The slogan, "VISA, It's Everywhere You Want To Be" will take on new meaning for reservists on Dec. 1, when the Department of Defense adopts NationsBank VISA as the official travel card.

"VISA, It's Everywhere You Get Deployed" might sum it up better, for more than 2,000 DOD employees at Westover ARB who currently use the American Express card.

Dan McCarthy, 439th Airlift Wing Deputy Financial Services Officer, said the NationsBank VISA works similar to the current American Express card.

"Members should note both the new VISA and the Amex cards are charge cards, not credit cards. The balance is due in full within 30 days of the billing cycle-

closing date. No interest is charged on overdue balances, but past-due accounts will be treated as delinquent - affecting members' credit reports," McCarthy said.

The distribution of VISA cards will be based on DOD's current list of American Express cardholders.

Defense Finance officials said if you already have a delinquent record with your government issued American Express, you will not immediately get the new VISA card. Instead, you will be given one of several other options, like traveler's checks, to pay your TDY bills.

McCarthy notes the basic services, like ATM withdrawals and travel-related expense payments, will pretty much remain the same with VISA, but DOD is working on an accounts access Web site.

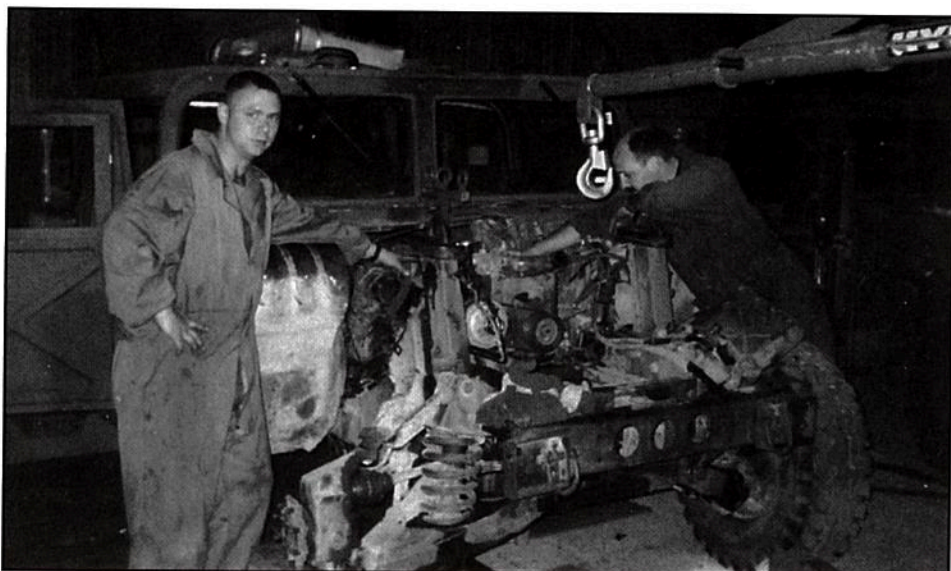
Reservists repair transport vehicles

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

When vehicle maintenance specialists of the 439th LSS/LGT needed to sharpen their mobility skills and the Army National Guard needed help deploying out of Germany, the reservists and guardsmen helped each other in May.

The mobility mission of Westover's vehicle maintenance specialists includes the capability of going anywhere they're needed to repair and maintain all types of vehicles, from HUMVEES to tractors. That's not always possible to train for at Westover, so when MSgt. Bruce Westcott of the 439th LSS/LGT heard of a need for vehicle maintenance specialists in Operation Guard Lift he didn't have to be asked twice.

The operation was centered in a large Army National Guard vehicle depot in Gernersheim, Germany, north of Frankfurt. In recent years the Guard has been redeploying the vehicles back to the U.S. It's a job that's been slowed down by the condition of the heavily used trucks, tractors, HUMVEES



courtesy of SSgt. Ron Girard

ENGINE SHOP — TSgt. Fred Bushnell, 439th vehicle maintenance craftsman, removes a HUMVEE engine assisted by an Army supervisor in Germany.

and other vehicles, some of which were brought back from UN missions in Bosnia.

Two four-man teams of Westover vehicle maintenance specialists volunteered to put the vehicles in running order in May. TSgt. James Cronin led the first group of TSgt. Fred Bushnell, SSgt. Ronald Girard and SrA Sam Buck. TSgt. Richard

King was team chief of the second group of TSgt. Jeffrey Casson, SSgt. Albert Czupkiewicz and A1C Omar Runcie.

The annual tour training ended with high marks from the National Guard, which gave the Westover teams a standing invitation to return any time they could to Gernersheim.

Employer Days set for October

The 439th Airlift Wing will conduct its annual Employer Appreciation Days in October.

Reservists will have the opportunity to invite their bosses to spend a day at Westover and to participate in an orientation flight aboard a unit C-5A.

Reservists who normally drill on the A Unit Training Assembly are asked to invite their boss on Oct. 3 while those who drill on the B UTAs should bring their supervisors on Oct. 17.

Brig. Gen. James D. Bankers, commander of the 439th AW urges all reservists to take part in the program.

Employers should report to the Westover Club no later than 9 a.m. Each reservist may invite just one boss or supervisor.

Only reservists assigned to the aircrew will participate in the flight.

To make reservations, reservists must fill out the form at right and return it to the Public Affairs office.

EMPLOYER APPRECIATION DAY APPLICATION

Reservists's name, rank and unit: _____

Reservist's home address: _____

Reservist's daytime telephone number: _____

Employer's name and title: _____

Employer's company name: _____

Choice of UTA:

Oct. 3 (A UTA) _____ Oct. 17 (B UTA) _____

I understand that I may nominate one person annually, and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature: _____
(Falsification of information on this form can be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.)

Return this form to:

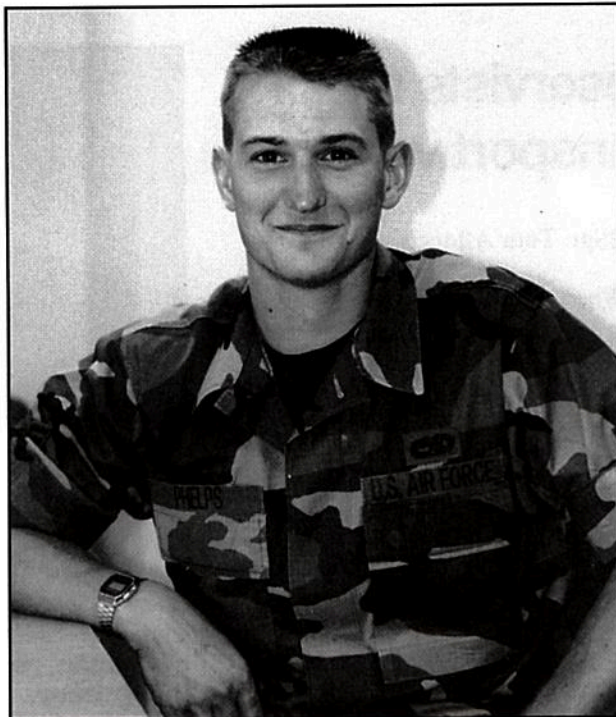
439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103
Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825

fax: (413) 557-2011, for information, call: (413) 557-3500

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Patriot People

Name: Ronald C. Phelps Jr.
Rank: AIC.
Age: 27
Address: Barre, Mass.
Unit: 42nd AGS
Position: Electrical and environmental system technician
Civilian position: Concrete foundation construction worker
Favorite food: "All You Can Eat"
Years of service: Less than one year
Favorite sport: Nascar Winston Cup racing
Favorite hobby: Sailboarding
Ideal vacation: Maine
Best way to relax: Walking in the woods
Preferred entertainment: Music
Favorite hero: Jeff Gordon
Favorite music: Classic Rock
Favorite movie: *Caddy Shack*
Favorite aircraft: F-111
Pet peeve: Doing things twice
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Spend it.



MSgt. Sandi Michon

AIC Ronald C. Phelps Jr.

Patriot Praises

Promotions

MSgt. Delany, Philip S., III
 MSgt. Helems, James A.
 MSgt. Leger, John D.
 MSgt. MacIntyre, John D.
 MSgt. Molina, McDonald R.
 MSgt. Ng, Johnny K.W.
 TSgt. Barszcz, Joseph E.
 TSgt. Charest, Kenneth T.
 TSgt. Claffey, Denise A.
 TSgt. Cobleigh, Roy K., Jr.
 TSgt. Colburn, Robert
 TSgt. DeMarco, Antonio
 TSgt. Harder, Jason C.
 TSgt. Healey, Marianne S.
 TSgt. Hurley, Paul G.
 TSgt. Kibe, Daniel E.
 TSgt. Lavigne, Jennifer
 TSgt. Lennon, Cari L.
 TSgt. Obannon, Michael E.
 TSgt. Phelps, William C.
 TSgt. Pregony, Douglas A.
 TSgt. Robles, Frances
 TSgt. Savarese, Lawrence
 TSgt. Sawvelle, Thomas M.
 TSgt. Sonntag, Ralph
 TSgt. Williams, Frederick
 TSgt. Wright, Michael P.
 SSgt. Bentley, Scott J.
 SSgt. Broadbent, Kevin J.
 SSgt. Chapp, Richard D.
 SSgt. Cutler, Denise
 SSgt. Greenly, Craig A.
 SSgt. Hitt, Colleen M.
 SSgt. Kadelwicz, John D.
 SSgt. King, David P.

SSgt. Litzler, Amy
 SSgt. McCarty, Metta L.
 SSgt. Stack, Timothy M.
 SSgt. Weingart, Calvin S.
 SSgt. Young, William M.
 SrA. Brower, Chad C.
 SrA. Ciaffaglione, Michael
 SrA. Davis, Smith M.
 SrA. Hellyar, Ryan M.
 SrA. Knight, William C.
 SrA. Lefebvre, Michelle
 SrA. Loughman, Scott
 SrA. Morgan, Anthony J.
 SrA. Oparowski, Michele
 SrA. Pope, Michael W.
 SrA. Singh, Tony J.
 SrA. Taylor, Collen B.
 SrA. Wasti, Faraz H.
 A1C Dasilva, Michael D.
 A1C Staple-Ward, Genetta N.

Enlistments

SrA. Ferguson, William H., Jr.
 SrA. Pais, David A.
 SrA. Wheeler, James M.
 A1C Lemay, Paul A., II

Reenlistments

CMSgt. Cullen, Joseph J., Jr.
 SMSgt. Murphy, Timothy P.
 MSgt. Kaulback, Jerry L.
 MSgt. Smith, Theresa

TSgt. Bready, Richard D., Jr.
 TSgt. Gardner, Robert K., III
 TSgt. Garwacki, Lawrence A.
 TSgt. Grabowski, William E.
 TSgt. Mottor, David A.
 TSgt. Nee, Kevin R.
 TSgt. Shvonski, Douglas J.
 TSgt. Watson, Aubrey U.
 TSgt. Zimmerman, Joyce N.
 SSgt. Becker, Gregory G.
 SSgt. Garreffa, Lewis T.
 SSgt. Gaudreau, Marie E.
 SSgt. Hurley, William P.
 SSgt. Kruezbarg, Todd A.
 SSgt. McMahon, Doreen H.
 SSgt. Phelps, William C.
 SSgt. Powers, William Paul A.
 SSgt. Reitano, Andrew V.
 SSgt. Rodrigues, Anthony J.
 SSgt. Shvonski, Douglas
 SSgt. Simeone, Brian R.
 SSgt. Towlson, Richard J.
 SSgt. Yates, Philip E.
 SrA. Alfredson, Wendy L.M.
 SrA. Claffey, William F.

Awards and Decorations

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Maj. John C. Devine
 Maj. Stephen Luongo
 439 CES
 Maj. Christopher J. Donovan
 439 OSS
 Maj. Michael A. Vinskey
 SMSgt. Thomas V. Dzwonkus
 337 AS
 (second award)
 MSgt. Paul Cincotta
 MSgt. David M. Pirog
 439 LSS
 SSgt. Ernesto A. Bennett
 722 ASTS

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

Maj. Mark S. Smyczynski
 439 ASTS
 Capt. Daniel E. Clearwater
 337 AS
 (third award)
 Capt. Richard J. Ouellette
 439 AGS
 MSgt. Anthony J. Delduco
 439 CES
 (second award)
 MSgt. Garrit Faber
 439 AGS

Safety tips for the airshow

by SSgt. Charlie Cangemi

To enjoy Westover's Great New England Airshow to the fullest extent this September, it's imperative that you make safety a priority.

TSgt. Ronald J. Labonte, air show senior medic, says everyone should protect him or herself from the sun and heat. **"Drink plenty of water,"** he says. "Dehydration can spoil your entire day." According to Labonte, free water will be handed out at the spectator area.

In addition to wearing **sunscreen** with a Sun Protective Factor of at least 15, Labonte says airshow visitors should choose their clothing carefully. He recommends wearing a **light-colored hat** to keep cool, and to **avoid open-toed shoes**. "This will minimize sunburned feet and enable you to explore the aircraft safely," he says, adding also to make sure children are dressed properly.

"There is little cover from the sun out on the tarmac," he warns.

Another safety concern is missing children or other members of one's group. Labonte recommends **everyone staying together**, and to **pick a meeting spot** and certain time before heading out to the tarmac in case groups are separated.

"If you lose track of a child or elderly member of your group, inform a police officer immediately," he says.

A lost and found area will be located between hangars 5 and 7 where visitors can retrieve lost members of their groups.

Following these tips during the **Great New England Airshow**, which will be held on **Sept. 12 and 13**, will ensure a fun and safe visit to Westover.



Briefs

JOLDS course will start here in October

Applications are being accepted for enrollment in an AFRC Junior Officer professional development course, which will begin here in Oct. 8 - 11.

The Junior Officer Leadership Development Seminar-II classes are designed to enhance leadership, confidence and management skills for captains and below. The curriculum is built around two four-day seminars, with six months of home study and unit training.

The seminar is open to all Air Force Reserve junior officers. For candidates to be eligible, they must receive the wing commander's nomination to attend.

Reservists from other branches, Air National Guard and active duty members may attend on a space-available basis.

Participants must enroll by Aug. 14. For more information, call Capt. Deborah Fuller at ext. 2648, or Deborah Reddish at DSN 497-0261 or 1-800-223-1784, ext. 7-0261. Access the website at <http://www.afres.af.mil/~qi/wijolds.htm>.

Center for Excellence offers several classes

The 439th Airlift Wing Center for Excellence is offering a number of classes for the remainder of the year that are open to reservists, civilian employees and family members. Anyone interested in attending may contact either Maj. Armand Tourangeau or CMSgt. Kathy Wood at ext. 2273.

Classes being offered include: Confronting Difficult Issues (Oct. 13-15); Customer Focus (Sept. 16-17, Oct. 28-29 and Nov. 21-22); Leadership and Performance Management (Sept. 22-24) and Mentoring (Dates to be determined.)

August UTA dates

A UTA Aug. 8-9

B UTA Aug. 22-23

Only one UTA in September:
Sept. 12 - 13 (airshow)

Unit/individuals merit medical awards

by SSgt Anne Kymalainen

Three individuals from the 439th are recipients of individual awards, and the 439th ASTS was chosen as the outstanding reserve medical quality initiative, as announced by Air Force Reserve Command officials who named individual and unit award recipients from the medical community for accomplishments during 1997.

SSgt. Teri A. Destefano, outstanding reserve noncommissioned officer assigned to a non-deployable medical unit, is assistant NCOIC of the medical administration section. Destefano, who lives in Madison, Conn., has been a member of the 439th MDS for five years. She received NCO of the year for the unit in 1997.

Maj. Robert Sousa, MDS administrator, said "Sgt. Destefano consistently demonstrates extraordinary professional ability, in-depth technical knowledge with in the Health Services Support Section with an uncommon perceptiveness in advancing the morale and welfare needs of her customer and colleagues."

SrA. Metta L. McCarty, outstanding reserve noncommissioned officer assigned to a non-deployable medical unit, has been a member of the 439th since Jan. 1997. The Feeding Hills,

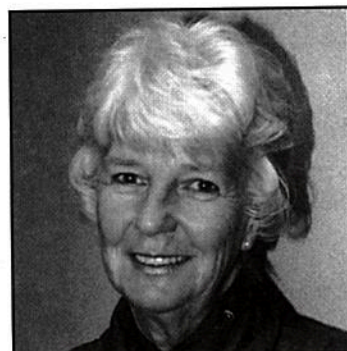
Mass. resident was also honored as the Airman of the Year in 1997 for the Medical Squadron. Sousa credits McCarty with "consistently performing in an enthusiastic and outstanding manner. She takes a no-nonsense approach to her duties and has a constant awareness of her responsibilities both to her organization and her customers."

McCarty's supervisor, TSgt. Mary Bihlmeyer, echoes these sentiments. She said McCarty's award is "a well deserved distinction. She does an outstanding job."

Sousa said "All of us in the MDS are really proud of them and very happy for winning these prestigious awards."

Maj. Rosemary Costa is the outstanding reserve officer assigned to an aeromedical evacuation squadron unit. Costa, an AES flight line nurse and a full time emergency trauma nurse at Baystate Medical Center, said "I am very pleased to receive such a very special honor. I know there is a lot of fierce competition out there." She gives credit to the rest of her unit. "No one does anything by themselves, it's all teamwork," she said.

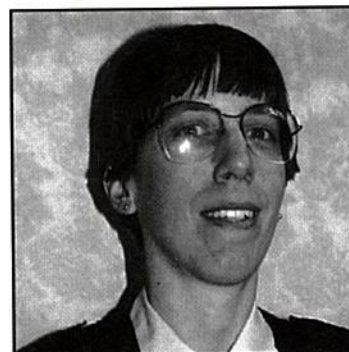
The awards will be formally presented at the Association of Medical Surgeons in the United States meeting in San Antonio in November.



Maj. Rosemary Costa



SSgt. Teri Destefano



SrA. Metta McCarty

Great New England Air Show September 12 - 13



Published monthly for Patriots like MSgt. Bradley Tryba of Agawam, Mass., and 2,483 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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